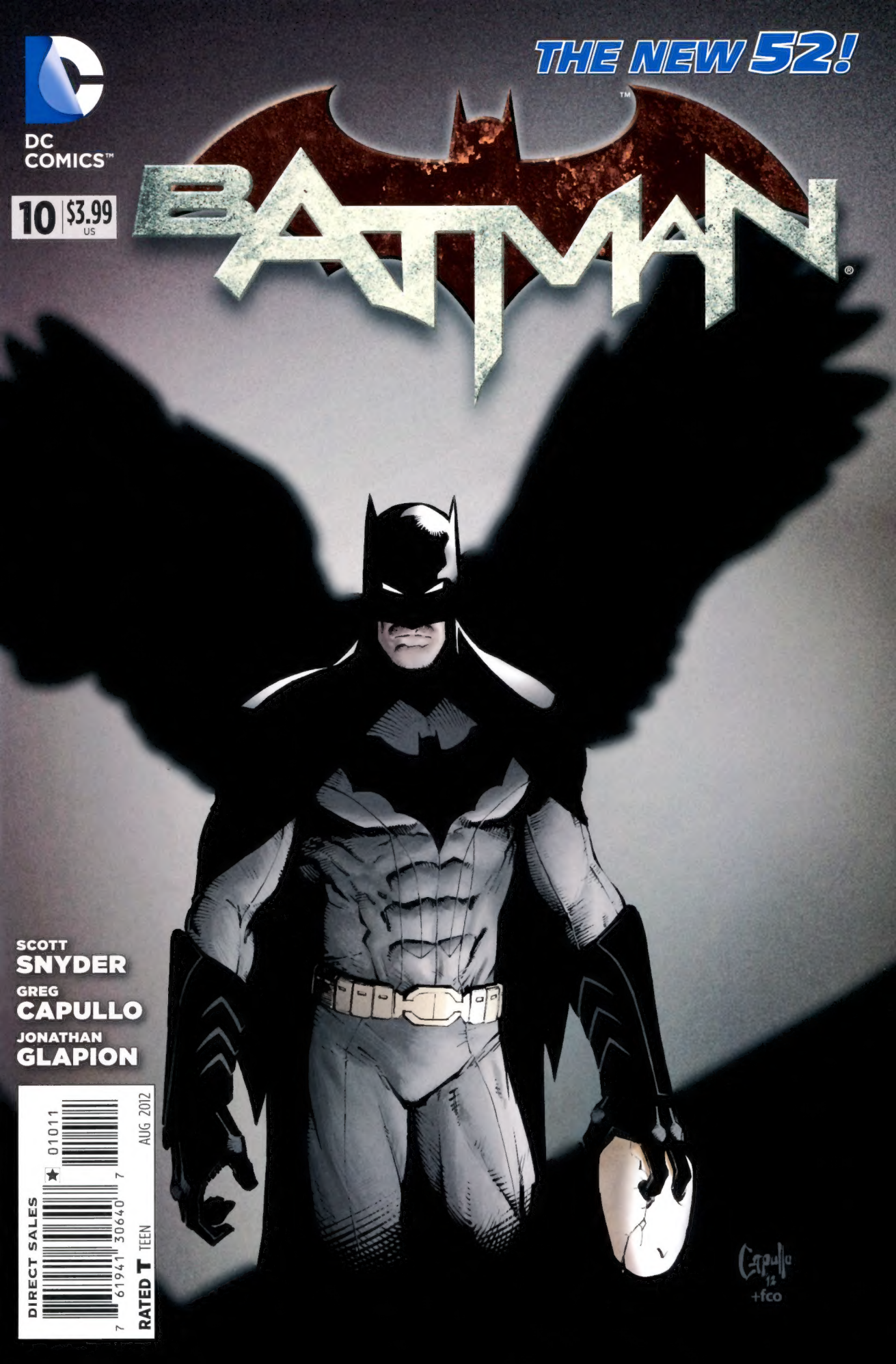
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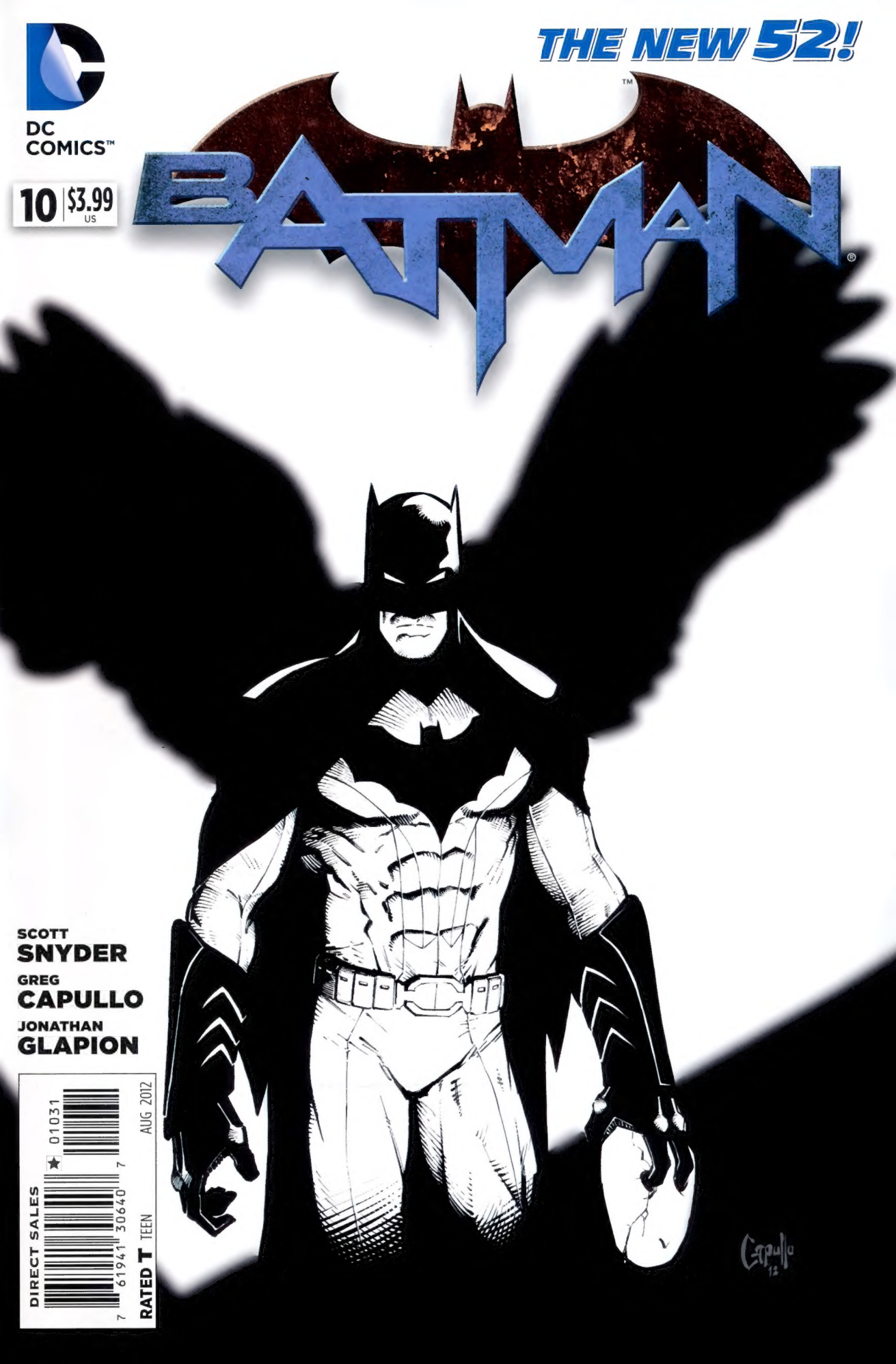
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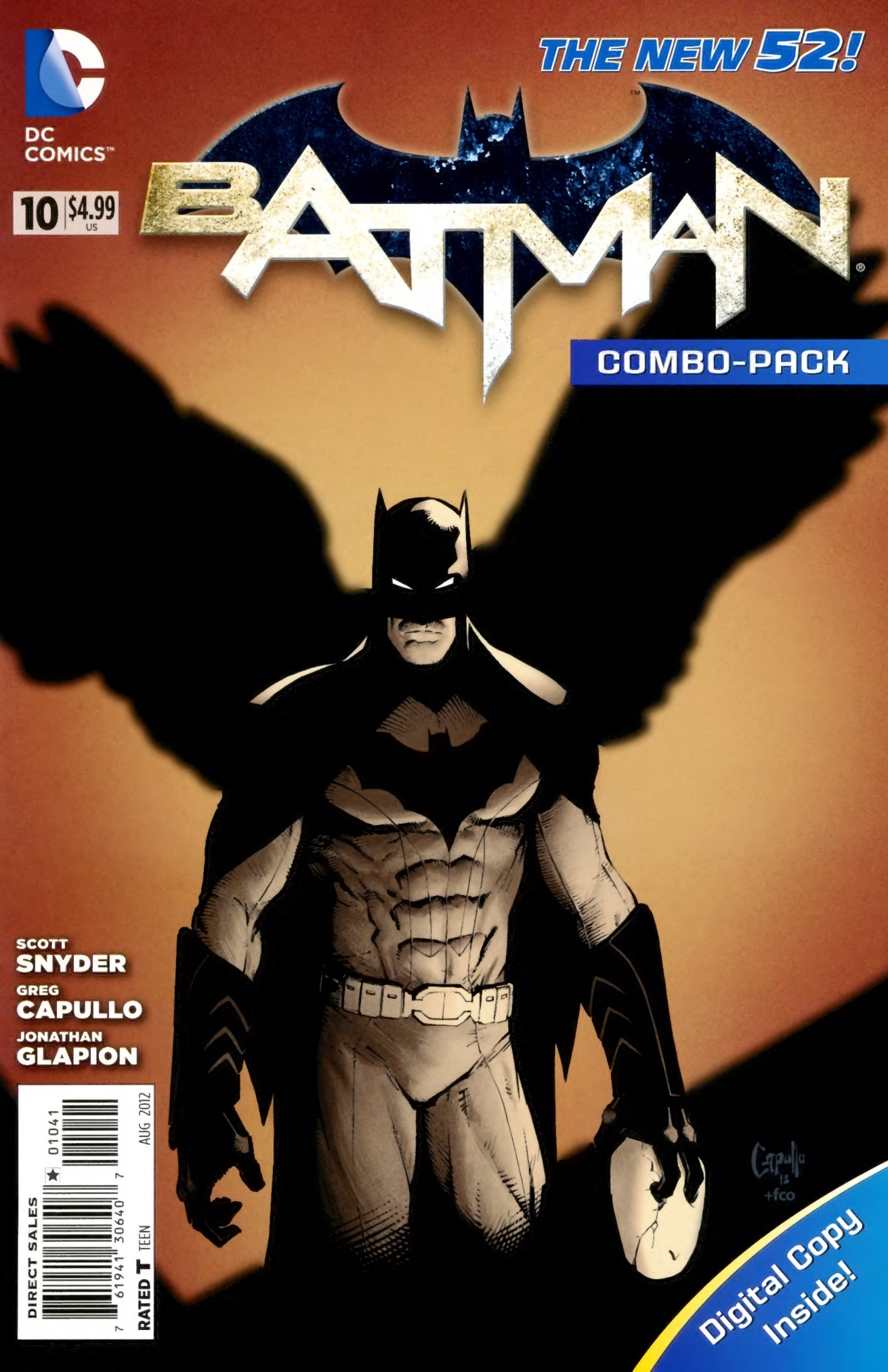
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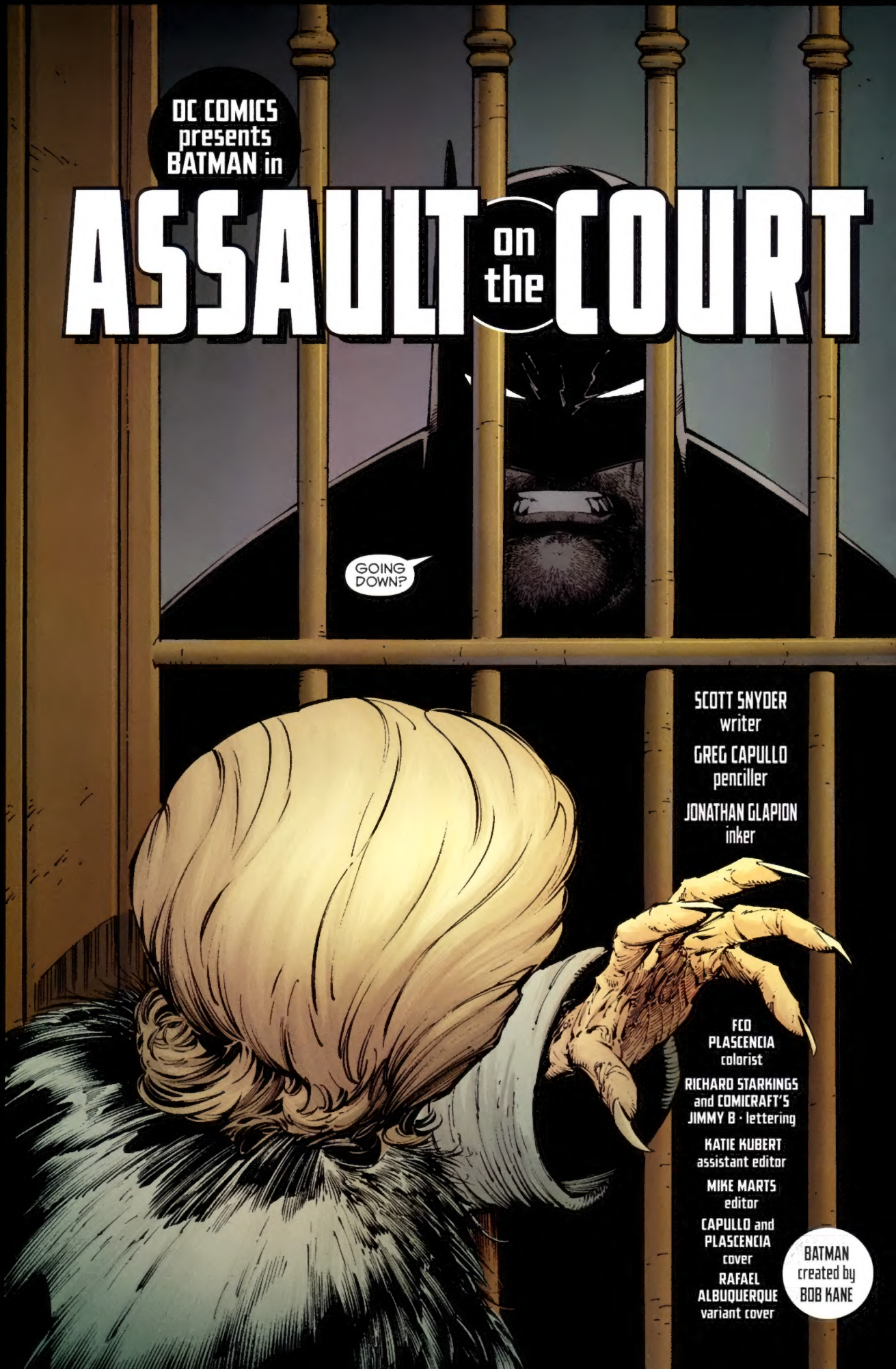
Digital Copy Inside!

What you're looking at is the most expensive private residence in Gotham City.
Valued at fifty-eight million dollars, the complex takes up the top three floors of the famous Powers Hotel and is occupied by the Powers family patriarch, Joesph, and his wife, Maria.
The place was built during the Depression, as a fortress against the masses. It has its own wooden gymnasium, pool, bowling alley...it even has a Zeppelin moor on the balcony.
Protected by both hotel and private guards, armed with encrypted wireless security, it has never seen a visitor not employed, or invited, by the Powers family.
Until tonight.
DEAR GOD...
SECURITY!
I SAID SECURITY! HELP ME, I'M--


DC COMICS presents BATMAN in
ASSAULT on the COURT
GOING DOWN?
SCOTT SNYDER
writer
GREG CAPULLO
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JONATHAN GLAPION
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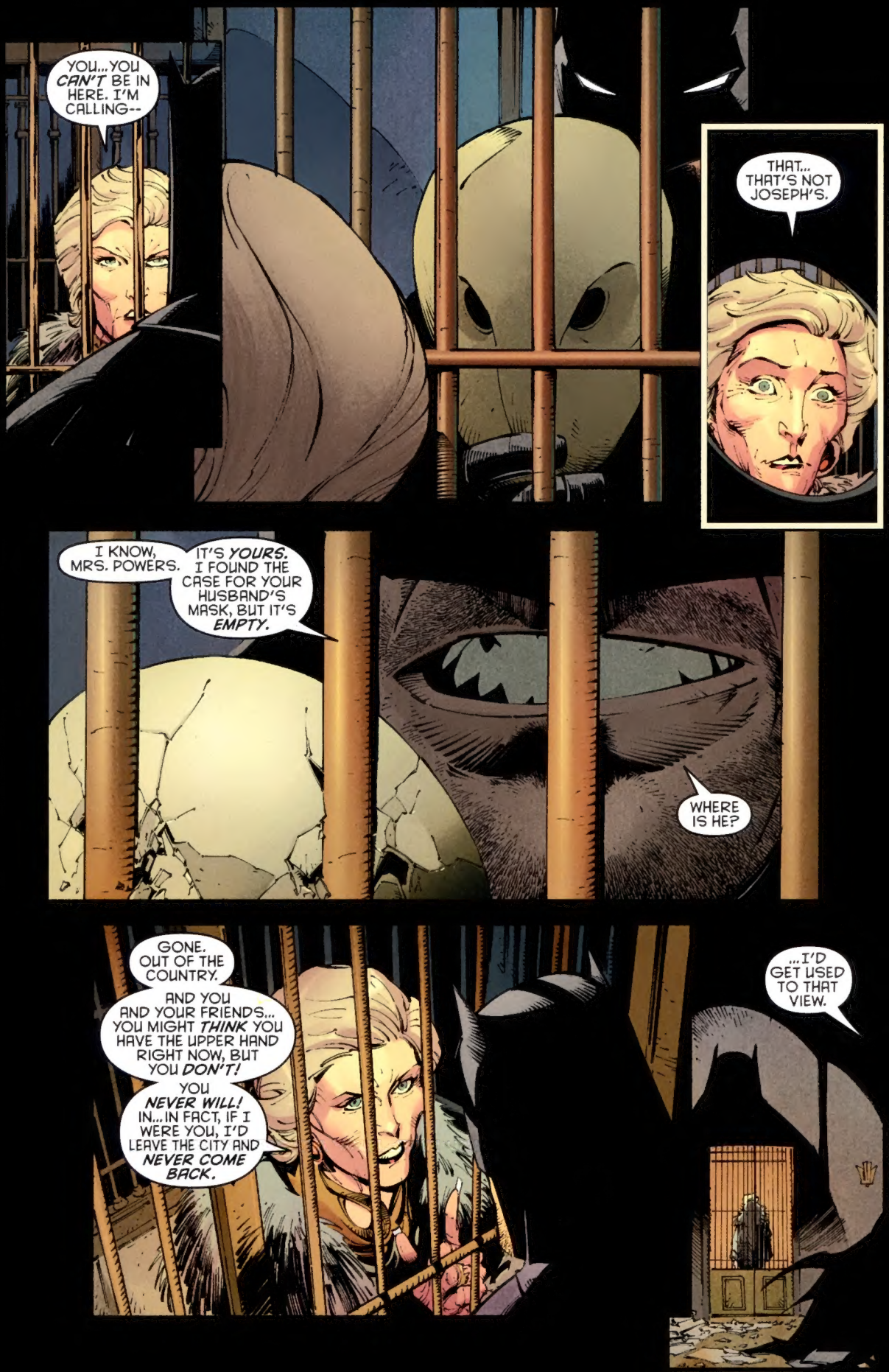
variant cover
BATMAN created by BOB KANE


YOU...YOU CAN'T BE IN HERE. I'M CALLING--
THAT... THAT'S NOT JOSEPH'S.
I KNOW, MRS. POWERS.
IT'S YOURS. I FOUND THE CASE FOR YOUR HUSBAND'S MASK, BUT IT'S EMPTY.
WHERE IS HE?
GONE. OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
AND YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS... YOU MIGHT THINK YOU HAVE THE UPPER HAND RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU DON'T!
YOU NEVER WILL! IN...IN FACT, IF I WERE YOU, I'D LEAVE THE CITY AND NEVER COME BACK.
...I'D GET USED TO THAT VIEW.

YOUR SCARE TACTICS WORKED, SIR. SHE'S DIALING HER HUSBAND NOW.
TELL ME YOU CAN TRACK THE CALL, ALFRED.
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE CAN. THOUGH HIS LINE IS BASICALLY IMPENETRABLY CODED, WE'RE NOW ABLE TO "PIGGYBACK" ON HERS TO LOCATE HIS PHONE.
AND THE TALONS?
CRYO
I MOVED THEM INTO THE COLD STORAGE LABORATORY, SIR...
... THEY SEEM TO HAVE RETREATED INTO SOME KIND OF PRESERVATORY STASIS.
GOOD.
TELL ME WHEN YOU HAVE A LOCK ON MR. POWERS.

IT'S STRANGE, SIR...
...THE PHONE APPEARS TO BE LOCATED IN SOME KIND OF BLACKOUT ZONE.
A BLACKOUT ZONE?
YES. SOMEONE HAS CREATED A DEAD AREA ABOUT A QUARTER MILE IN RADIUS. I CAN PLACE THE PHONE WITHIN THE ZONE ITSELF, BUT BEYOND THAT...
AND THE LOCATION?
...THE BLACKOUT ZONE IS LOCATED ON GOTHAM'S SOUTH SIDE, SIR.
ALONG THE ROW?
YES, AND JUDGING BY THE EMISSION FIELD, I CALCULATE THE EPICENTER TO BE SOMEWHERE AROUND--
IRVINGTON...
--I'M SORRY, SIR?
77 IRVINGTON. RIGHT WHERE IT ALWAYS WAS.
YES... BUT, HOW DID YOU KNOW, SIR?
MASTER BRUCE?

Henri Ducard, the great detective, once told me that there's a feeling you get on a case sometimes...
...a feeling that comes when the pieces suddenly fit into place and the answer you've been looking for all that time begins to appear.
The feeling, Ducard said, is like "a remembering." Not so much a discovery of something new, as a remembering of what you knew all along. Something right in front of you.
That feeling is the best indicator you have your answer, said Ducard.
Earlier tonight, when Lincoln March gave me his short list of names, I felt it. I saw Joseph Powers' name on the list and I knew.
Not just because he was responsible for the founding of the Gotham Aviary, for its exceptional collection of rare owls. Not because his finances seem skewed. But because I felt it in my gut, that remembering.
And now, here, I feel it again...
...outside this building.
I came to Harbor House when I was a boy. I was looking for the Court of Owls.
That time I found nothing.
Not tonight.

Tonight, the Court goes down. Once and for all.
No more hiding. No more plotting from the shadows.
Tonight their story ends. Their little song will be forgotten. Their name vanishes from Gotham's history.
They know it, too. Rushing to meet here in the middle of the night.
The report from Alfred is that many of the assassination attempts tonight were stopped. Most of the Court's Talons are down.
And now I have them cornered.
No security, no traps... nothing can keep me from them.

Not tonight.
Not.

...not again.
DAMN YOU...

"...DAMN YOU ALL."

MASTER BRUCE?

YOU'RE NOT DRESSED. DON'T FORGET, YOU'RE MEETING WITH THE FIRMS BIDDING ON THE ELEVATED PARK IN LESS THAN AN HOUR.
I TOLD YOU. I'M WAITING ON THE GRAY, ALFRED.

YES, WELL, IT SEEMS TO HAVE SNUCK UP ON YOU, SIR.

SO WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME THOSE MORBID THINGS SO I MAY RETURN THEM TO THEIR CASE, AND YOU CAN START THINKING ABOUT TREES AND PONDS AND A GREENER CITY.
IT DOESN'T *MAKE SENSE,* ALFRED. MEMBERS OF THE COURT, TAKING THEIR OWN LIVES, JUST LIKE THAT.
I RATHER THINK IT *DOES,* SIR. YOU'VE TAKEN THE CITY BACK FROM THEM.
THEN THERE'S THE MONEY. MONEY SIPHONED FROM THE DEAD MEMBERS' ACCOUNTS IN JUST THE LAST FEW WEEKS...IT FEELS MORE LIKE A SETUP. LIKE SUBTERFUGE.
YOU SAW THE AUTOPSIES, MASTER BRUCE. THE COURT MEMBERS ARE *QUITE DEAD.*
SOMETHING DOESN'T FIT ABOUT IT, ALFRED. THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND IT. I CAN *FEEL* IT. SOMEONE CLOSE. CLOSE ALL ALONG.
THAT MAY BE, SIR. BUT THE ANSWERS WILL COME. YOU NOW KNOW THE IDENTITIES OF AT LEAST *SEVERAL* OF THE COURT OF OWLS' MAJOR FIGUREHEADS.
AND WHILE THEIR ORGANIZATION, AS YOU'VE DISCOVERED, IS CLEARLY MUCH *LARGER* THAN THIS ONE GROUPING, I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL EVENTUALLY BRING THEM ALL TO JUSTICE.
IF I MAY SPEAK FREELY, SIR, PERHAPS THE THING THAT DOESN'T FIT ABOUT THIS ENDING IS THAT IT *IS* AN ENDING.
I KNOW WHEN YOU WERE A BOY YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT FIND ANSWERS TO YOUR PARENTS' MURDER IN THE COURT OF OWLS, AND MY SUSPICION IS THAT PERHAPS YOU WERE HOPING YOU MIGHT FIND MORE ANSWERS *NOW.*
WHAT GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?

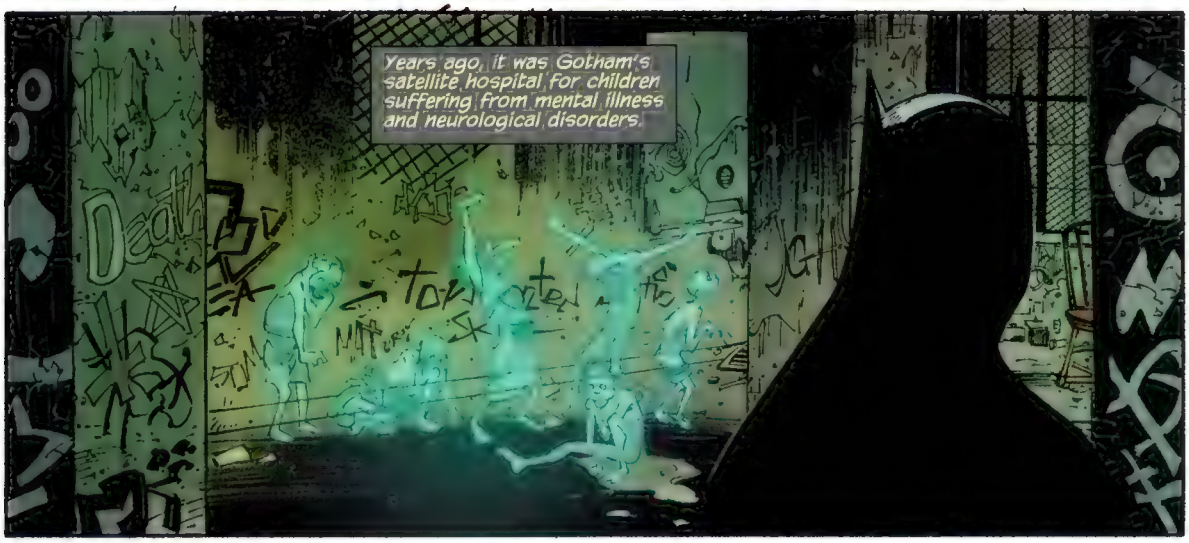
WHEN IT COMES TO THEM? TO THEIR MURDER? *YOU* ARE THE ANSWER TO THAT MYSTERY, BRUCE WAYNE. AND *THAT* ANSWER...
...IS ENOUGH.
NOW PUT ON THAT BLOODY SUIT AND GET OUT OF HERE!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I'M GOING.
JUST CALL ROBERTS AND TELL...
...TELL HIM...
TELL HIM *WHAT*, SIR?
TELL HIM...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT.
BUT, SIR. WHERE ARE YOU--
I'M GOING AFTER HIM, ALFRED.

"AFTER WHO, MASTER BRUCE?
"SIR? ...WHO?"
"HIM. THE ANSWER TO ALL THIS.
"THE ONE BEHIND IT. THE ONE I FORGOT."
Follow me down the Rabbit hole?
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, OLD FRIEND.

Sinkholes are tricky things. They can form in more places than most people think.
In cities, they form particularly quickly, often exacerbated by leaky pipes and overly heavy structures.
Gotham has a sinkhole. Just one. It's the only one in Kane County, in fact.

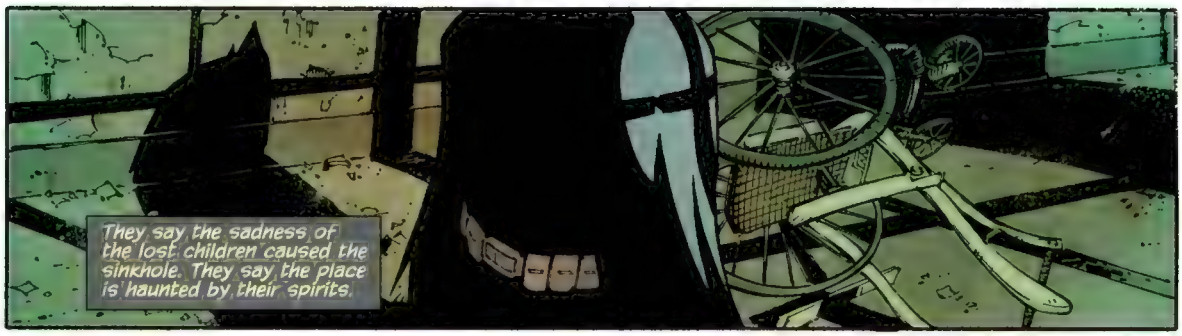
And it sits beneath this place.

The Willowwood Home for Children.


Years ago, it was Gotham's satellite hospital for children suffering from mental illness and neurological disorders.

It operated until eighteen years ago, when a sinkhole swallowed the orderlies' quarters.
In the days that followed the catastrophe, the truth about Willowwood became clear.

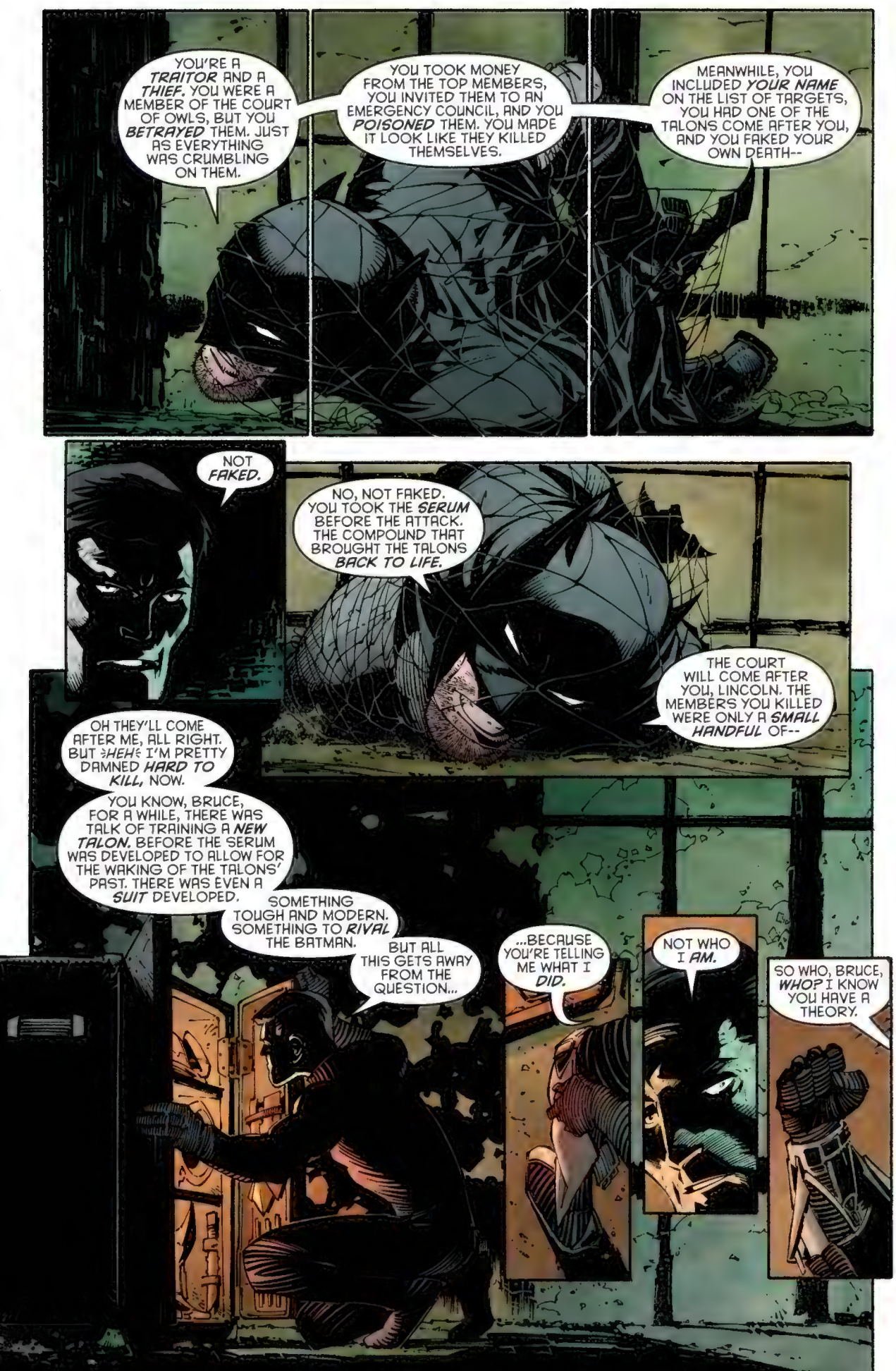
The abuses the children had been subjected to. The neglect. Children. Alone, naked, rotting in their filth. Left to starve.
Now, it sits abandoned, and children dare each other to spend the night inside.


They say the sadness of the lost children caused the sinkhole. They say the place is haunted by their spirits.

Tonight, I almost believe it... after all, I'm here to catch a dead man.

I'M HERE.

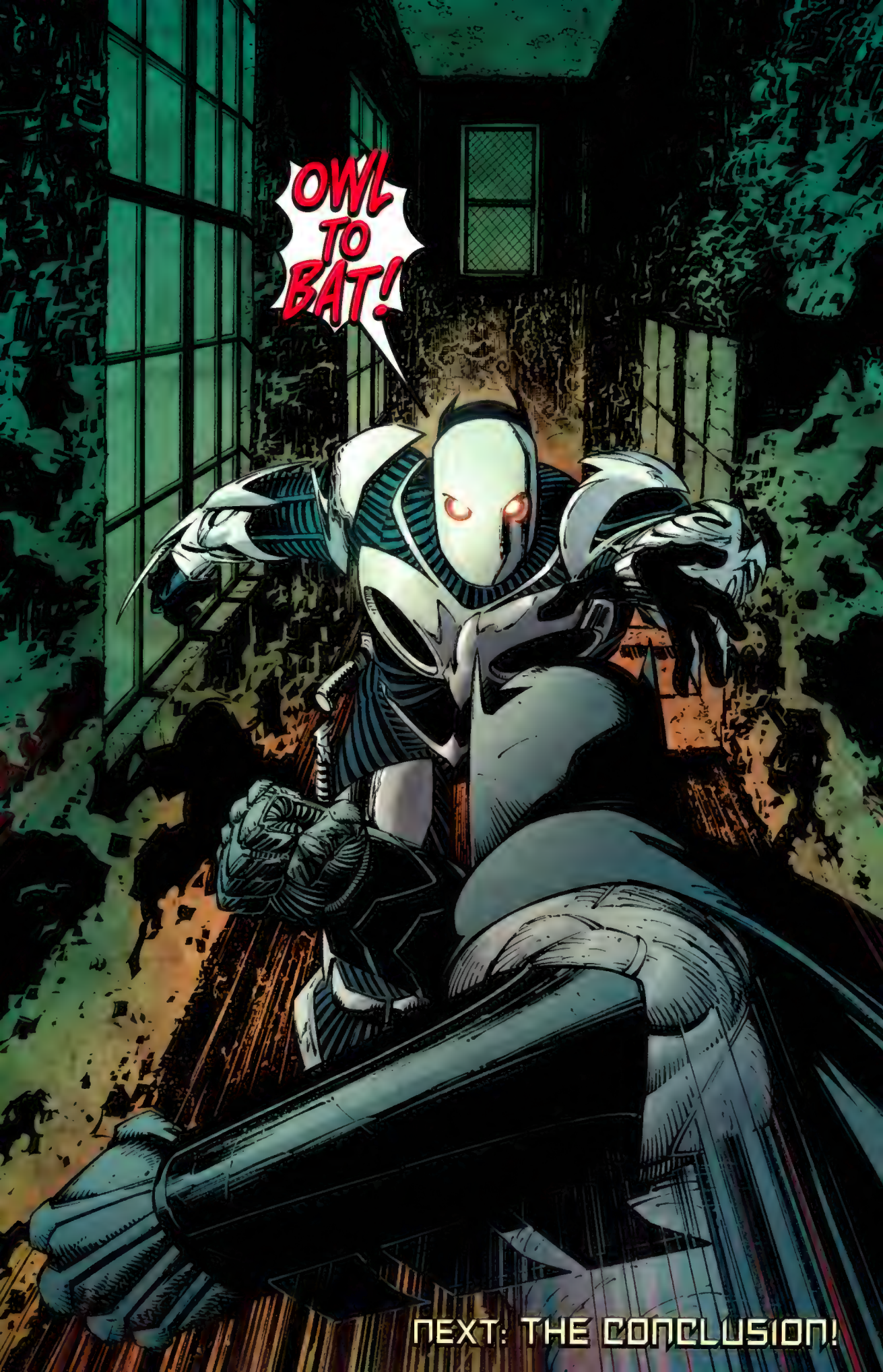
UNH!
SO TELL ME, BATMAN...
WHO?
WHO AM I?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT YOU'RE NOT LINCOLN MARCH. BECAUSE LINCOLN MARCH DOESN'T EXIST.
HE'S A PAPER MAN, SET UP BY THE COURT OF OWLS.
GOOD. SO IF I'M NOT LINCOLN MARCH, THEN WHO AM I?


YOU'RE A *TRAITOR* AND A *THIEF.* YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE COURT OF OWLS, BUT YOU *BETRAYED* THEM. JUST AS EVERYTHING WAS CRUMBLING ON THEM.
YOU TOOK MONEY FROM THE TOP MEMBERS, YOU INVITED THEM TO AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL, AND YOU *POISONED* THEM. YOU MADE IT LOOK LIKE THEY KILLED THEMSELVES.
MEANWHILE, YOU INCLUDED *YOUR NAME* ON THE LIST OF TARGETS, YOU HAD ONE OF THE TALONS COME AFTER YOU, AND YOU FAKED YOUR OWN DEATH--
NOT *FAKED.*
NO, NOT FAKED. YOU TOOK THE *SERUM* BEFORE THE ATTACK. THE COMPOUND THAT BROUGHT THE TALONS *BACK TO LIFE.*
THE COURT WILL COME AFTER YOU, LINCOLN. THE MEMBERS YOU KILLED WERE ONLY A *SMALL HANDFUL* OF--
OH THEY'LL COME AFTER ME, ALL RIGHT. BUT *HEH* I'M PRETTY DAMNED *HARD TO KILL,* NOW.
YOU KNOW, BRUCE, FOR A WHILE, THERE WAS TALK OF TRAINING A *NEW TALON.* BEFORE THE SERUM WAS DEVELOPED TO ALLOW FOR THE WAKING OF THE TALONS' PAST. THERE WAS EVEN A *SUIT* DEVELOPED.
SOMETHING TOUGH AND MODERN. SOMETHING TO *RIVAL* THE BATMAN.
BUT ALL THIS GETS AWAY FROM THE QUESTION...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE TELLING ME WHAT I *DID.*
NOT WHO I *AM.*
SO WHO, BRUCE, *WHO?* I KNOW YOU HAVE A THEORY.

MY THEORY? YOU WERE AN *INMATE* HERE AT ONE TIME.
GOOD. SO TELL ME HOW YOU YOU DEDUCED THAT.
MEN LIKE YOU--*CRIMINALS*--ALWAYS LEAVE *CLUES* BEHIND.
NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE SLOPPY, BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE *EGOTISTICAL.* YOU LIKE TO *TAUNT* YOUR PURSUERS.
SNIP
SO THE SINKHOLE. THE STORY YOU TOLD ME WHEN I VISITED YOU IN THE HOSPTIAL, AFTER WE WERE ATTACKED AT OLD WAYNE TOWER. YOU WERE *DARING* ME TO LOOK DEEPER INTO YOU.
YOU KNEW THE RECORDS THE COURT OF OWLS CREATED WERE TOO GOOD TO PENETRATE, BUT EVEN SO, YOU LEFT A CLUE.
A *TRUTH* INSIDE THE LIE.
A TRUTH INSIDE THE LIE. EXACTLY, JUST LIKE WITH *YOU.* LIKE WHEN I SAW YOU FIGHT THAT TALON DURING OUR FIRST MEETING. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AN *EASY HIT.*
THE COURT SAID I COULD BE THERE TO WATCH. AND WHEN I SAW WHAT YOU WERE...*THE BATMAN*...THAT'S WHEN I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO. WHAT I NEEDED TO *BECOME.*
BUT I SAW WHO THEY WERE, TOO--THE COURT. THEY SAID THE TALON ATTACKED ME BY *ACCIDENT*, THAT HE MADE A MISTAKE, BUT I SAW THE TRUTH IN THAT LIE, TOO.
SO WHO AM I, BRUCE? GO ON. I WAS AN INMATE HERE AS A CHILD AND THE COURT TOOK ME IN...*WHY?*
BECAUSE YOU WERE SOMEONE WITH NOTHING, SOMEONE THEY COULD PROP UP AND *CONTROL,* SOMEONE THEY COULD CREATE FROM SCRATCH. THEIR OWN CANDIDATE. *LINCOLN MARCH.*
NO! BECAUSE OF WHO I ALREADY WAS! *WHO I AM...*
YOU'RE MAKING ME ANGRY, AVOIDING THE QUESTION, BRUCE. BUT IF YOU WON'T ANSWER IT, ANSWER THIS: *HOW?* WHAT TIPPED YOU OFF? WHAT SENT YOU TO THE MORGUE?
...
SAY IT!

THE PIN.
THE PIN! WHAT PIN?
IN THE STORY YOU TOLD ME, IN OLD WAYNE TOWER. ABOUT YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH. THE CAR ACCIDENT THAT KILLED HER.
THERE'S THE LIE, BUT WHERE'S THE TRUTH?
YOU MENTIONED A PIN SHE WORE. A MISSHAPEN HEART PIN. MADE OF CLAY.
AND?
"YOU SAW THE PICTURE OF MY MOTHER WEARING THAT PIN AND YOU USED IT IN YOUR--"
NO. THE TRUTH IN THE LIE, BRUCE. THAT PIN. IT WAS ONLY GIVEN TO THE MOTHERS OF CHILDREN WHO LIVED HERE AT WILLOWWOOD.
SO WHO AM I, BRUCE?
WHO? I ASK, LIKE THE GREAT OWL, WHO?!
YOU'RE SICK.
YOU'RE NOTHING. YOU'RE--
YOUR BROTHER, BRUCE.
I'M THOMAS WAYNE, JR.
YOUR BROTHER THAT NEVER WAS. FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR.

I DON'T HAVE A BROTHER!
OH, BUT YOU WERE *SUPPOSED* TO, THOUGH, REMEMBER? I KNOW YOU DO. THINK BACK, TO BEFORE. I WAS THERE, IN MOTHER'S STOMACH... BUT THERE WAS AN *ACCIDENT,* BRUCE. REMEMBER?
YOU WERE *THERE.* I WAS BORN EARLY, BORN HURT. AND OUR PARENTS *HID* ME HERE. AT *WILLOWWOOD.* TO HEAL AWAY FROM THE WORLD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, LINCOLN, WHAT STORY THE COURT *CONCOCTED* FOR YOU, BUT THAT'S *THEIR MISTAKE.*
MY PARENTS WOULDN'T DO THAT. THEY WOULDN'T PUT A SON OF THEIRS, SICK OR NOT, IN A PLACE LIKE *THIS.*
SEE, BUT IT WASN'T LIKE THIS BACK THEN, AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. IT WAS A *PREMIER* CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.
THAT IS UNTIL THE FUNDING DRIED UP. WHEN THE HOSPITAL'S BIGGEST DONORS DIED. THOMAS AND MARTHA WAYNE. TRAGICALLY *SHOT IN AN ALLEY.*
YOU WANTED TO KNOW IF THE COURT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH OUR PARENTS' DEATHS, BRUCE. THE ANSWER IS *NO.* THEY DIDN'T. THAT WAS ALL *YOUR FAULT,* BROTHER.
AND I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU PAY.
SO FINISH CUTTING THROUGH THE NET. AND LET'S HAVE THIS OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL... FOR THE *CITY OF GOTHAM.*
WAYNE TO WAYNE.
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND...
BROTHER TO BROTHER...


OWL TO BAT!
NEXT: THE CONCLUSION!

The hour is late, my boy...my Alfred.
If I do not escape soon, I fear I will never leave these wretched grounds.
Death's shadow draws closer with every passing moment.
I fear for my life, but more for the secret horrors I have unleashed...
AAHHH!
...not only upon the Lady Martha and Master Thomas...

...but the very legacy of the Wayne Family.
You see, Martha had resolved herself to the creation of a new school for Gotham's underprivileged, its forgotton children.
She believed that through this school, she could shape the city into something brighter for young Master Bruce...
...and for her second child, who was nearly due to be born.
I spent my days caring for Bruce as his mother tended to her plans and to her pregnancy.
Even at three years old, Bruce was an an exceptional child. Smart and kind...I knew you would love him one day as I do.
But now, none of that will come to pass.
"JARVIS, CAN YOU COME IN HERE FOR A MOMENT?"

YES, MADAM?
GATHER UP BRUCE AND GET HIM READY FOR BED. I'LL BE UP JUST AFTER THIS CALL.
I'M SORRY, MR. MAYOR, I--NO--I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR! THESE MEN SAID THEY REPRESENTED THE CITY. WHO THE HELL ELSE WOULD I THINK--
YOU DON'T APPRECIATE *MY TONE*?!
THESE MEN THREATENED MY *UNBORN CHILD!* IF THEY CALL AGAIN, I PROMISE THAT THE LAWYERS OF BOTH THE KANE AND WAYNE FAMILIES WILL COME DOWN ON YOU SO FAST YOUR HEAD WILL SPIN.
HOW DOES *THAT* SOUND TO YOU?
RUN UP TO YOUR ROOM, NOW, MASTER BRUCE.
SLAM
JUST *LET* THEM TRY TO STOP ME.

In a city like Gotham, there will always be those who stand firmly against progress.
SMASH
My entire life, I had heard rumors, rhymes, and deadly superstitions of such figures.
My father even told me once never to push a Wayne towards greatness. Happiness is a more worthy goal.
And far less deadly.
I never took the admonition seriously, until the day I received that fateful call.

BBBRRRING
WAYNE MANOR. JARVIS SPEAKING. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
AH! MR. PENNYWORTH. JUST THE MAN I WISHED TO REACH. I NEED YOU TO LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY.
THE NEXT TIME YOU TAKE MRS. WAYNE INTO THE CITY, YOU WILL TAKE HER TO DOCK SEVENTEEN AT THE GOTHAM MARINA, FOR A CONVERSATION BETWEEN FRIENDS.
WHY WOULD I EVER--
FAIL TO COMPLY, AND I PROMISE YOU... IT WON'T BE PLEASANT. FOR YOU OR YOUR MASTERS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.
WHO *IS THIS?* WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK--
THUMP
"MADAM, I'VE JUST RECEIVED A CALL, A THREATENING CALL."

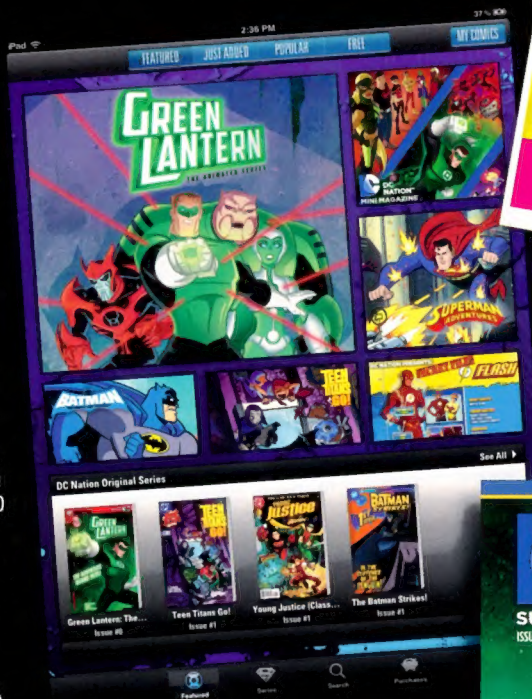
THE MAYOR'S GOONS STILL WANT TO FRIGHTEN ME, DO THEY? I THINK THEY'LL FIND I DON'T SCARE EASY.
I HAVE A SUSPICION THIS MIGHT BE BIGGER THAN CITY HALL. THEY WANT ME TO TAKE YOU TO SOME UNWATCHED CORNER OF THE DOCKS...
WELL, I GUESS WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE DOCKS THEN, ARE WE?
NO, OF COURSE NOT, MADAM.
BUT IN YOUR CONDITION, I STILL MUST URGE CAUTION--
JARVIS. IN MY "CONDITION" OR NOT, I WILL NOT BE TERRORIZED IN MY OWN CITY. NOW LET'S GET THE CAR READY. I'VE PROMISED BRUCE I'D SHOW HIM THE GROUNDS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL.
I'M BRAVE, MOMMY!
YOU'RE THE BRAVEST BOY IN GOTHAM, BRUCE. ALWAYS WILL BE.

Martha's hope and purity of spirit pushed me to agree. But I knew, in my heart, I should have insisted that we stay home.
I had my suspicions, now, as to what figures haunted the Waynes.
The Owl in the window had sealed my dread.
I could hear that silly rhyme growing louder in the back of my head, the closer we got to the school grounds.
The closer we got to that damned intersection...
SKREEEEEEE
...on the corner of Lincoln and March.
THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF WAYNE
PART 2 OF 3
WRITERS SCOTT SNYDER & JAMES TYNION IV
ART RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
COLORS DAVE MCCAIG
LETTERS DEZI SIENTY
ASSISTANT EDITOR KATIE HUBERT
EDITOR MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE
2012
TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEW DC NATION!

When we tell you All Access readers to be on the lookout for new stuff, we're not kidding! New apps, new websites, The New 52…we're constantly working to bring you the best and newest entertainment. In the spirit of "new," we wanted to update you on some super awesome happenings with DC Nation! Take a look!

DC Entertainment has released a new family-friendly *DC Nation* app offering instant access to the best in all-ages content from DC Comics. Based on the popular Saturday morning programming block from Cartoon Network, Warner Bros. Animation and DC Entertainment, the free app features thousands of pages of kid-safe content including free, first issues of three of the all-time greatest kids' comics, BATMAN ADVENTURES #1, SUPERMAN ADVENTURES, #1 and the multiple Eisner Award-winning TINY TITANS #1.



The app will also offer several *Super Hero Origin* mini-comics and weekly updates to the ever-expanding *DC Nation Secret Files*, an encyclopedia of the coolest characters from DC Comics. A monthly *DC Nation* "mini-mag" will highlight the latest happenings with the Cartoon Network TV programming block. In addition to the wide range of free comics in the app, more than 100 all-ages DC Comics titles will be available for purchase at $.99 each, with more titles added every week.

On the heels of the app launch, DC Entertainment will also release a new *DC Nation Super Spectacular* magazine in May. The 64-page magazine will be on newsstands and in comic book shops for $4.99 throughout the summer, offering kids a collection of new comics based on popular *DC Nation* shows including *Young Justice* and *Green Lantern: The Animated Series*. The magazine will also include exclusive versions of content that extends from the *DC Nation* app programming. The magazine is sponsored by LEGO® *Batman*™ *2: DC Super Heroes*, an upcoming game from Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, and will include an exclusive game code for its readers.

Be sure to check out the DC Nation app and DC Nation Super Spectacular – you can read them while watching DC Nation on Cartoon Network every Saturday morning at 10:00 AM! Enjoy and check back with us here and on dcentertainment.com for breaking news.

Be seeing you-

Ian Sattler, DC Entertainment

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